

WHAT CONSTITUTES A SUCCESSFUL
SUNDAY-SCHOOL

H. M. LICHTY

It has been recently argued that the test of a successful Sunday-school lies in the number of conversions that can be counted for the church.

I wish to emphasize the fact here that the Sunday-school is a school. Here is where we go to study the Bible. My definition of a successful Sunday school is the place that gathers into its walls the largest number of pupils and where when once gathered exists the greatest interest, the deepest enthusiasm in the study of the word of God. True piety, reverence and spirituality are taught here rather by example than by precept. Especially is this true since we have our Y. P. S. C. E.'s and K. C.'s junior and senior, where especial efforts are made to advance the spiritual part of the work. We do not lay enough stress upon the fact that our Sunday-schools are schools. Too much time comparatively is taken up with devotional work—opening and closing, concert reading, etc., and not enough with downright, hard, rigid application to the study of the great Text Book. We try to teach too much, or in other words we tell too much and do too much work as teachers and officers and get too little work done by our pupils. From superintendent down too little is required. We do not look enough for results. How much have we taught? What can our pupils tell or intelligently relate about the lessons that they did not know before our effort to teach them? Remember that there is a wide difference between information and education. Froebel was first to draw the line between these two.

The superintendent must be the head of the teachers. She must teach the teachers. When the quarter or the year begins a definite prospective view of the work must be taken. Just exactly how much is to be accomplished must be planned out. There must be in a manner a course of study that will be "required" by superintendent and teacher before the "course" is completed. There must be certain fundamental truths or principles definitely known before the pupil can "pass." By way of illustration. We have been a year on the study of the Acts. Now teachers and superintendents are you ready to graduate your school on this book? What does your school know about the book? I hold we are not doing good work until we can show results, until we can "stand an examination." At least one half the adults and older pupils should be able to get 70 per cent. or over in the following examination questions: (1) Who wrote the Acts? (2) What important period is covered? (3) Why is the author a competent one to make such record? (4) What can you tell about the title? (5) What are the three most important events recorded? (6) Which chapter contains Paul's conversion? (7) Draw a map showing Paul's second missionary journey naming the places he visited? (8) How many times and before whom was Paul tried? (9) Why did Paul, being able

to establish his innocence, appeal to Cæsar? (10) Quote five passages locating same in this book.

We try to teach too much. We should dwell more and drill more and review more until we are sure we have made impressions that will last. As a rule children are ready, willing and anxious to be drilled or reviewed while the older members of the school will tire of the exercise unless put in new, constantly new and interesting ways.

Nothing is acquired that is of value without much labor and sacrifice. Not enough time is spent in the study and preparation of the Sunday-school lessons. If yours is a successful Sunday-school you will have everybody out. You will have all deeply interested in the lessons. You will have enthusiasm in song, prayer, and concert exercises. You will have liberal contributions and you will never be satisfied with what you have but ever be reaching forward and upward to attain greater perfection.

Carleton, Neb.

The Mission Field

MISSIONARY READING CIRCLE

COURSE OF READING

First Year	Cloth	Paper
1. Crisis of Missions—(Pierson.)	\$1 06	29
2. Armenian Ampitheater.		09
3. Do Not Say.		09
4. Our Country.	51	25
5. Life of Sammy Morris.		10
6. Choice Extracts—(Meyer.)		05
		87

The books, together with other literature, such as circulars giving full particulars how and why to organize and read, description of books, etc., can be had by addressing Rev. C. F. Yoder, Warsaw, Ind. Circles should be organized in every congregation.

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Monthly Report of the National Mission Board of
the Brethren Church—October

GENERAL FUND

Mary A. Snyder, Glovers Gap, Va.,	\$ 5 00
California Church, per M. Shively,	12 83
Republic, Kansas, no name given,	1 00
A Sister, Stockton, Cal.,	3 65
	\$ 22 48

WASHINGTON FUND

National S. S. C. E.	\$ 20 00
Johnstown Church,	5 00
Brethren Church, Roanoke Va.,	5 00
Washington City Church,	9 32
Mrs. L. L. Tombaugh,	1 00
	\$ 40 32

DAYTON FUND

L. L. Tombaugh,	\$ 1 00
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CHICAGO FUND

Mt. Zion Church Aurelia, Iowa,	\$ 10 00
S. S. Brethren Church, Lanark, Ill.,	11 65
Emma Puterbaugh, Lanark, Ill.,	10 00
Mrs. E. H. Horner,	1 00
Mrs. Anna Woolford,	1 00
Sam. Beamenderfer,	50
D. A. Hopkins, Tiosa, Ind.,	3 46
B. L. Gorden,	1 00
C. F. Yoder,	5 00
John Fox,	3 00
M. E. Church, Col.,	4 50
D. H. Weaver,	50
J. T. Hood,	10 00
Mrs Lizzie Bowman,	1 00
Guilford Leslie,	5 00
Hugh and Gladys Leslie,	45
Josiah Lichty,	25 00
Missionary report 2	
Mary Holsinger,	5 00
Josiah Maust,	44
Milledgeville church,	12 50
Dr. Little,	1 00
D. M. Bowman,	2 00
Hannah Lowman,	1 00
Collection at Roann,	5 00
" in Chicago,	7 00

Indiana Conference:—R. H. Deamchhof, 1 00; John Hood, 1 00; J. Mouse, 1 00; Juniors at New Mexico, 1 00; Elder Hopkins, 1 00; E. H. Vail, 1 00; Mrs Skinner, 1 00; Cash, 2 00; David Augustine, 6 00; L. F. Baker, 1 00; J. A. Ridenour, 1 00; Mrs. L. Stearns, 5 00; Mrs. Horner, 1 00; Ida Simmonds, 1 00; Brother Raeder, 1 00; Rev. Hazlett, 1 00; Mrs. Shirk, 1 00; Gandsinger, 1 00; Sprinkle, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; G. Leslie, 1 00; L. Miller, 1 00; Sister Early, 30 cts.; J. Cunningham, 1 00; S. Eikenberry, 1 00; Swoyer, 1 00; Sister Leslie, 1 00; a brother, 1 00; Cash, 50 cts.; Corinth Sisters Society, 5 00; Basket collection at lecture, 20 75; Total,

\$63 55

\$190 55

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Previously reported,	\$328 30
General Fund,	22 48
Washington Fund,	40 32
Dayton " "	1 00
Chicago " "	190 55

\$582 65

EXPENDITURES

Previously reported,	\$244 62
Am't paid direct to W. M. Lyon,	39 32
Bal. due W. M. Lyon, order No. 7,	23 86
Am't paid direct to J. D. McFaden,	158.90

Total expense, \$466 70

Total receipts to Nov. 1, 582 65

Total expenditures Nov. 1, 466 70

Balance on hand, \$115 95

JACOB C. CASSEL,
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.